(c) whether Government have called for a detailed report from Indian Embassy in Kuwait;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government propose to take some action in the matter in the interest of Indian Construction workers in Kuwait; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian workers employed in Hyundai Construction Company, a Korean firm in Kuwait, went on a strike after one of their colleagues was hit by a Korean Safety Supervisor when the Indian worker reportedly tried to get some water from the main supply tank after break-down of water supplies to the labour camp.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) When Indian Embassy at Kuwait came to know about the incident it immediately contact the management of Company, the Indian workers including the affected Indian worker, Shri Nisar Ahmed who was in the hospital. Regular liasion with hospital authorities was kept to ensure that proper medical attention was extended to him. A police case has also been registered against the concerned Korean Safety Supervisor, which is under investigation by the area administration. The Korean employee is on bail. Indian Embassy is pursuing the matter with the police authorities. The company has also expressed their deep regrets in writing for this unfortunate incident. The Indian Embassy is following up the case to ensure that the safety and dignity of the Indian workers is maintained.

(e) and (f) The Indian Embassy in Kuwait has already taken up the matter with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Kuwait.

India's share in export of Agricultural Products

1873. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) India's share in World export trade in agricultural products;

(b) whether the total volume of farm exports is still very low; if so, the details of items exported; and

(c) the steps to boost farm exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The world trade in agricultural commodities is estimated to be about US$300 billion. During 1994-95 exports of agricultural commodities (excluding tea, cofee, raw cotton and marine products) were valued at Rs. 7049.04 crores (US$ 2247 million). The agricultural commodities exported include Basmati and Non-basmati rice, tobacco, spices, cashew, oilmeals, Guar Gum and fruits and vegetables. The details of the agricultural commodities exported are given in the Foreign Trade Statistics published by the DGCI&S, Calcutta, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) Steps taken to enhance export of agricultural products include simplification of inspection procedures, removal of Minimum Export Price and quantity restrictions on selected items, provisions of concessional credit, product development to meet international needs, extension of benefits available under the scheme of EOUs/EPZs to agriculture sector and permitting 50% sale in the domestic tariff area, assistance to exporters for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control, promoting export of identified products through brand promotion campaigns, arranging buyer-setter meets and participation in international fairs/exhibitions.

अखबारी कागज की आयात संबंधी नीति

1874.**श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल**: क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच हैं कि वर्ष 1995-96 में अखबारी कागज के आयात के लिये अभी तक कोई आयात नीति घोषित नहीं की गई हैं;

(ख) यदि हां,तो इस विलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने अखबारी कागज के आयात के लिये कोई नीति तैयार की है,यदि हां,तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या हैं;और